

CLAIMS

1. A component or composition for inducing apoptosis in hepatoma cells, characterized in that the component or composition contains enterolactone (ENL) or plant lignan precursor compounds of thereof as active ingredient(s), and has the characteristics of 1) inducing apoptosis in hepatoma cells, 2) arresting the cell cycle of the cells, and 3) ameliorating lipid metabolism abnormalities in living body.

2. The component or composition according to claim 1, wherein said compound is enterodiol (END), secoisolariciresinol (SECO), syringaresinol, arctigenin, lariciresinol, pinoresinol or sesamin.

3. A drug for inducing apoptosis in hepatoma cells, characterized in that the drug comprises the component or composition defined in claim 1 or claim 2, and a pharmacologically permissible carrier component.

4. A functional food product material or food product for ameliorating lipid metabolism abnormalities in living body, characterized in that the food product material or food product contains the component or composition defined in claim 1 or claim 2 as a functional component.

5. The functional food product material or food product according to claim 4, characterized in that the functional food product material or food product is a nutritional

supplement food product, nutritional agent, therapeutic food product or health food.